

Denali National Park & Preserve Annual Mountaineering Summary-2001



GOOD NEWS FROM DENALI!

The 2001 climbing season finished on a great note this year with safe and successful experiences enjoyed by climbers, guides, pilots, as well as the National Park Service. In fact, even long-standing park employees indicate that the 2001 season was one of the most enjoyable seasons to date. The weather in June was 'severe clear' throughout the entire month, with climbers summiting the mountain on all but three days; air taxis were able to fly in and out of the Kahiltna base-camp with very few delays. There were some new routes and numerous repeat ascents of hard climbs in the Alaska Range by experienced teams blessed with stable weather.

It was also a great year for the wilderness thanks to the continued labors of park staff as they led a passionate environmental awareness campaign. These determined efforts by rangers and volunteers in weighing trash, numbering fuel cans, and educating on human waste disposal made a huge difference in returning Denali to its pristine state. Despite a record number of climbers in 2001, many seasoned veterans agreed that the mountain was the cleanest it has been in modern history.

A partnership with the American Alpine Club (AAC) in the development and use of the 'Clean Mountain Can' and in the purchase of biodegradable waste bags, helped in

the effort to explore new methods of human waste disposal (see story page 4). The AAC grant provided financial support for a pilot study involving rangers and volunteers, as well as guided and non-guided expeditions.

Nevertheless, with the growing numbers of climbers, we are still seeing occasional abandonment of caches and improper disposal of human waste; the mountaineering staff issued nine citations for waste-related violations.

It was a relatively smooth rescue season. Not only were there no fatalities in the park, but no climbers or backcountry users suffered critical injuries. On the topic of search and rescue, this season the South District was tasked by Congress with completing a cost recovery study that looked at a variety of rescue-related financial issues (see story page 10).

The rangers on the mountain busily carried out 11 separate mountaineering patrols on Denali, supplemented by patrols into the Ruth Glacier and Little Switzerland. Mountaineering volunteers again provided invaluable support to rangers on Denali — their experience and expertise truly enabled mountaineering patrols to professionally carry out rescue and environmental education efforts.

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***The National
Park Service
cares for
special places
saved by the
American
people so
that all may
experience our
heritage.***

2001 STATISTICAL YEAR IN REVIEW

- A record 1,305 climbers attempted Mt. McKinley, with a record 772 summits recorded.
- Four expeditions attempted climbs during the winter months. Only Masatoshi Kuriaki reached the top, summiting Mt. Foraker on March 31, 2001, via the Southeast Ridge.
- The average trip length for an expedition on Mt. McKinley was 17.1 days.
- The average age of a Denali climber was 36 years old. The oldest climber this season was 70 years old, and the youngest was 11, both record-breaking climbs.
- Women comprised 10% of the climbers on Mt. McKinley. Collectively, women posted a 45% summit percentage rate.
- Guided clients accounted for 18% of climbers on Mt. McKinley. Guided expeditions as a whole (including clients and guides) accounted for 25% of the climbers on the mountain.
- A total of 189 summits were made during the month of May, 549 in June, and 34 summits in July.
- The busiest days on the summit of Denali were June 4th (69 climbers) and June 8th (68 climbers). There were only three days in June that climbers did not reach the top.
- In terms of international makeup, climbers came from 39 nations. After the United States (with 765 climbers), the other top nations represented include:



ROUTE	NUMBER OF EXPEDITIONS	NUMBER OF CLIMBERS	SUMMITS (EXPEDITIONS)	SUMMITS (CLIMBERS)	SUMMIT PERCENTAGE
MT. MCKINLEY					
American Direct	1	1	0	0	0%
Cassin Ridge	11	26	6	13	50
Muldrow Glacier	2	19	0	0	0
Muldrow Traverse	5	19	4	11	58
New Route	3	6	1	2	33
Northwest Buttress	1	2	1	2	100
Pioneer Ridge	2	3	0	0	0
South Buttress	1	2	0	0	0
West Buttress	292	1109	199	670	60
West Buttress Traverse	8	45	6	33	73
West Rib	19	40	8	16	40
Upper West Rib	12	32	10	25	78
Wickersham -Canadian	1	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	358	1305	235	772	59%
MT. FORAKER					
Archangel Ridge	1	2	0	0	0%
Infinite Spur	3	6	3	6	100
Southeast Ridge	4	10	2	5	50
Sultana	9	22	0	0	0
TOTALS	17	40	5	11	28%

FIRST ASCENTS AND INTERESTING STATISTICS

Long spells of good weather this season allowed several first ascents and fast repeats. Some of the highlights are noted below:

MT. MCKINLEY

Northwest Buttress: Aaron Zanto and Torrey Riches completed a new variation to the start of the Northwest Buttress, joining the route from the south at just below 13,000 feet. They went on to complete their ascent alpine style, reaching the north summit in 3 days.

Northwest Face, West Buttress: Americans Ben Gilmore, Kevin Mahoney, and Bruce Miller completed a first ascent to the left of "Beauty is a Rare Thing" (1996). Their route "Common Knowledge" (V WI6 R), the fourth line to ascend the wall, was done in 26 hours from the 14,200-foot camp on the West Buttress route.

Father and Sons Wall: British climbers Ian Parnell and Kenton Cool climbed a new line to the left of "First Born" (1995). Their route "Second Coming" (V) is the second ascent up the wall and was done in 46 hours from the 14,200-foot camp on the West Buttress route.

Southwest Face: Stephen Koch and Marko Preselj climbed a new line between the Cassin Ridge and Denali Diamond. Their route "Light Travelers" (VI M8) was completed in a 51 hour push from the 14,200-foot camp on the West Buttress route.

West Buttress: On June 17, Galen Johnston, age 11, became the youngest person to summit Denali, trimming seven months off the record previously held by Kim Young Sik. He climbed the route with his mother and father, Cari Sayre and Dave Johnston.

West Buttress: On June 16, Japanese climber Toshiko Uchida, age 70, became the oldest woman to summit, upping the ante by 8 years over the previous record holder. She was part of a 6-member private expedition.

MT. FORAKER

Infinite Spur: Speed ascent by Steve House and Rolando Garibotti, ~45hrs round-trip from the base of the route back to basecamp on the southeast fork of the Kahiltna.

MT. HUNTER

South Ridge: Greg Corliss and Rick Taylor completed a 2,000-foot unclimbed spur (5.8, WI 3) to the right of the South Ridge, joining the route at 10,500 feet. They descended the Southwest Ridge.

North Buttress: On a face commonly referred to as the "Mini Moonflower," two new lines were completed by two separate parties. Stephen Koch and Marco Preselj were the first to make an ascent, and British climbers Ian Parnell and Kenton Cool climbed a line just left of theirs. Both routes are rated IV/V, WI6.

LITTLE SWITZERLAND

Royal Towers: River Lee-Elkin and Eric Siefer climbed a new mixed route ("Spam and Legs" 5.8, WI4/5) to reach the South Summit of Royal Towers.

South Troll: Paul Turecki, Brian Teale, and Kirsten Kremer added a new line to the West Pillar of the South Troll ("Pure Retro" V- 5.10+).

OTHER AREAS

Mt. Barille: (Ruth Glacier): Brian Teale and Scott Thelen put in a new line up the Northeast Pillar, naming it "Baked Alaska" (IV+ 5.10 AI).

Peak 8600: (Yentna Glacier): River Lee-Elkin and Jim Larue completed a first ascent of an unnamed peak via its west ridge.

Mt. Barille: Jon Allen and Ken Sauls repeated the Orgler route on East Face (45 hours climbing, 12 hours on top, 64 round-trip)

Kichatna Spire: Jay Smith and Nathan Martin completed a new route on the East Face of Kichatna Spire in July.

TALKING TRASH ON DENALI

Any person who becomes a wilderness mountaineer has a deep and abiding responsibility to help preserve the wilderness environment for present and future generations. Walking softly is a fair start. ...This dwindling and finite resource depends on the wilderness traveler for its future preservation.

- Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 1992

"Wilderness management is 80-90 percent education and information and 10 percent regulation."

-Max Peterson, former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, 1985

In many ways these two sentiments sum up the goals of the Park Service's ongoing efforts, led by Ranger Roger Robinson, at studying trash and human waste issues on Denali. In 2001, a two-part study was conducted on the mountain. Part I built upon the 2000 trash monitoring study, while part II looked at the efficacy of having climbers remove some or all of their human waste from the mountain.

For much of the season basecamp was staffed with a Resource Management Technician, Michelle O'Neil, who worked with a randomly selected sample group who agreed to have their food weighed and looked at prior to leaving on their expedition. This group, composed of foreign, domestic, and guided expeditions, also had their leftover food and trash weighed and examined before they left the glacier. Additionally, Michelle, along with other Park Service personnel and the basecamp manager, Lisa Roderick, contacted all the expeditions coming into basecamp and issued them fuel cans marked with their expedition number. They also contacted and weighed trash and checked fuel cans from about three-quarters of the expeditions that visited the mountain this year.

The results of part I of the study were generally consistent with those found during the 2000 season, but also added much valuable information to our understanding of trash issues. Both years of the study found that expeditions, on average, generate approximately one-third of a pound of trash per person per day. This unit is referred to as a 'User Day' and is very helpful in

that it removes the variables presented by expeditions of varying length and size. In 2001 this information was further refined by looking at various types of user groups. Foreign teams and guided expeditions produce similar amounts of trash, 0.35 and 0.36 lbs. per User Day respectively, while domestic teams produce notably less, 0.24 lbs. per User Day. All the more interesting is the fact that foreign teams used significantly less food, 1.78 lbs. per User Day, than either domestic or guided teams, which carried 2.05 and 2.49 lbs. per User Day respectively. Again, as with last year's study, no correlation was found to exist between food weights and amount of trash ultimately generated by an expedition. However, by looking at the food packaging and meal planning techniques employed by each expedition, the staff found the relationship. Whether an expedition had various types of food packaging was noted at the time food was weighed. Foreign and guided groups had larger percentages of the heavier packaging types than did domestic groups.

It should also be noted that seven expeditions in the random sample were able to eliminate all the commercial packaging from their rations. These groups also followed meal planning techniques outlined in outdoor skill manuals, and all these groups generated less than 0.25 lbs. of trash per User Day.

Based on this information, the Park Service is planning to send out literature to future climbing expeditions to assist them in most efficiently pack-

aging their food to minimize waste.

While the problem of trash being left on the mountain is improving, the problem climbers most frequently reported in their post-trip report this season was improper disposal of human waste. In an effort to address this issue, the second part of the NPS waste study involved volunteer trials of the new Clean Mountain Can (CMC), prototype canisters designed by Roger Robinson and funded by a conservation grant from the American Alpine Club specifically for this pilot study. Climbers were asked to use the canisters for part or all of their expedition both to test the usability of the canisters and determine the feasibility of

(please continue on next page)



An American Alpine Institute guided expedition field tests the Clean Mountain Can. (NPS Photo)

TALKING TRASH ON DENALI (CONTINUED)

(continued from p. 4)

expeditions removing their human waste from the mountain.

Twenty-one groups volunteered to use the cans; two guided expeditions, 14 independent groups and five Park Service patrols. The majority of these groups were on the West Buttress route of Denali with four of them using the cans all the way from basecamp to high camp. CMCs were issued from Talkeetna, basecamp and the 14,200-foot camp and, once used, could be turned in at any of those locations. A septic pumping company picked up the dirty canisters in Talkeetna, then cleaned, disinfected, and returned them for re-issue, a process that worked well in this initial phase.

Feedback on the canisters was generally positive. Out in the field volunteers found the CMCs easy to use with some modifications. The degradable bags originally in-

tended for use with the cans proved to be too delicate in the cold and susceptible to moisture, so it was easier to go directly into the can. The CMC will undergo some design changes for the 2002 season. Robinson hopes to have constructed a more compact, lighter version with a similar strap system for attaching the CMC to a pack or sled.

With these promising results and the increasing need to address waste management issues on Denali, the Park Service is planning to expand the study next season to include all climbers using high camp for a 20-day period during the season. During that time all expeditions will be required to use the CMCs at the 17,200-foot high camp. It is hoped this pilot study can answer some of the logistical and environmental issues that need to be addressed before considering further implementation of this program.

A TESTIMONIAL!

Aug. 2001

Dear Roger,

I would like to compliment you and all of the Denali climbing ranger staff for your efforts toward maintaining a much cleaner environment on Denali this last season. I have done three Denali trips. The first was a traverse in 1976, the second a West Buttress trip in 1982, and the third was another traverse this year. The difference in the cleanliness is striking. I saw NO trash at all on the Mt., and I observed everyone either using the designated "outhouses" or "slotting" their human wastes as directed. This included climbers on the populated West Buttress route, as well as the much less traveled Karstens-Muldrow route. Every group had large plastic blue bags of trash and empty fuel cans tied to their packs. In 1976 and 1982, the Mt. was covered with melting-out pit latrines and litter was common. There was no evidence of either this year. Thank you and your staff for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Jim Sprott

Anchorage, AK



NPS Resource Management Technician Michelle O'Neil weighs a climber's trash at the Kahiltna basecamp.

(Photo: Roger Robinson)

RESCUE SUMMARY - 2001

Detailed below are the 11 mountaineering-related rescue missions in Denali National Park and Preserve in 2001. Costs incurred by the National Park Service (NPS) for these rescues were \$56,137 and the costs for the Military were \$34,579. For more detailed information, refer to Accidents in North American Mountaineering, 2002, published by the American Alpine Club.

HAPE, HACE: On May 9, a Korean became ill with both High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) at the 14,200-foot camp on Mt. McKinley. For three days the climber was treated with supplemental oxygen at the National Park Service camp and was able to descend with his team and under his own power on May 12.

HAPE: On May 11, a French climber was treated for symptoms of HAPE at the 14,200-foot camp. After spending roughly 24 hours on oxygen, the climber's condition stabilized and NPS staff recommended that he descend. The climber signed a release from NPS care refusing any further medical treatment or advice.

BLEEDING ULCER: A Korean climber was evacuated from the 14,200-foot camp to basecamp via the NPS high altitude Lama helicopter (contracted with Evergreen Helicopters) on May 14 due to symptoms of a gastrointestinal bleed. An Air National Guard Pavehawk then transported the climber to Anchorage, where a few hours later he underwent surgery for a bleeding ulcer at Alaska Regional Hospital.

FALL: On May 17, an Ecuadorian climber was seen falling just below the fixed lines at 15,400 feet. NPS personnel lowered the climber, who suffered an ankle injury, to the 14,200-foot camp. That evening, the climber was evacuated by the Lama helicopter to 7,200-foot basecamp and transferred to an Air National Guard Pavehawk helicopter for transport to Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

HAPE, HACE: On May 17, an American climber was discovered by NPS volunteers to be unresponsive in a tent at the 14,200-foot camp. The climber was brought to the ranger camp by sled and was treated for HACE and HAPE. Along with the fallen Ecuadorian climber noted above, the sick climber was evacuated by the Lama helicopter to the basecamp and transferred to a Pavehawk helicopter for transport to Providence Hospital.

FROSTBITE: An American climber reported frostbite on his right toes and left little finger to the rangers at the 14,200-foot camp on May 19. The injuries were sustained while making a carry to 16,200 feet and compounded by the fact that the climber did not inspect his feet until the next morning, by which time they had rewarmed. On May 20 the climber was flown to the 7,200-

foot basecamp where he boarded a commercial plane to Talkeetna.

FALL: On May 23, a Swiss climber fell and hurt her left knee while descending below the fixed lines on the West Buttress of Mt. McKinley. The NPS Lama evacuated her from the 14,200-foot camp to the basecamp on May 26.

AMS, HAPE: On May 26th, an American climber was brought to the ranger camp at 14,200 feet, complaining of a severe headache and persistent cough. He was treated for Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) and HAPE as well as a possible respiratory infection. After being re-evaluated on the morning of May 27 he was lifted via Lama helicopter to basecamp where he was transferred to a LifeGuard helicopter and flown to Providence Hospital.

FALL: In the early morning of May 29, two British climbers were injured in a 700-foot fall while climbing on the Southwest Ridge of Mt. Hunter. The remaining four team members descended to assist the injured climbers. Two of the teammates then skied out to the glacier to make CB radio contact with an aircraft and inform the pilot of the accident. Once the incident was relayed to the NPS, a rescue effort was mounted. Both patients were short-hauled from the accident site by Lama helicopter to the Thunder Glacier by early afternoon, and then transported to Alaska Regional Hospital via an Air National Guard Pavehawk.

FALLING ICE: On June 16 an American climber was evacuated from the Cassin Ridge on Denali after falling ice caused a disabling leg injury. Immediately following transport to Denali basecamp by the NPS Lama helicopter, the climber was flown by LifeGuard Helicopter to Providence Medical Center where he was treated for his injury.

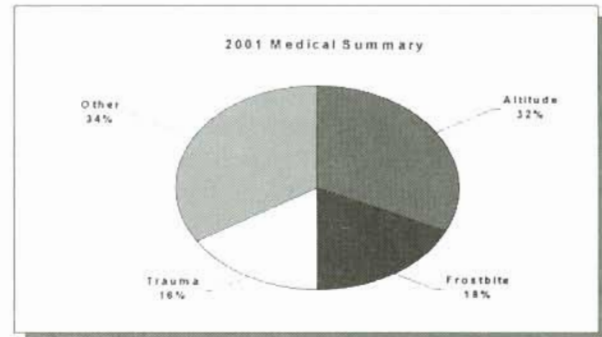
FALL: NPS received word on June 18 that a guided client was complaining of severe neck pain after self-arresting from a short fall from Karsten's Ridge on Mt. McKinley. The park helicopter remained on standby for more than three days, although low visibility precluded an air evacuation. During this period the climber's condition stabilized enough for the guide staff to clear him of a suspected spinal injury and resume an unassisted descent.

MEDICAL SUMMARY

A total of 43 patients were treated for medical reasons this year by Denali National Park South District staff. All but two of these individuals were climbing Mt. McKinley. This is half the number of patients seen last year. There were 18 foreign and 25 American climbers treated. Of the 43 patients, eight were on guided expeditions. Interestingly, these represent the same proportions seen in the total climbers registered for Denali this season. The busiest period of activity was the week of May 13 to 19.

The chart to the right shows that altitude illness, a condition largely preventable through proper acclimatization,

continues to be among the most commonly observed medical conditions.



DENALI BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

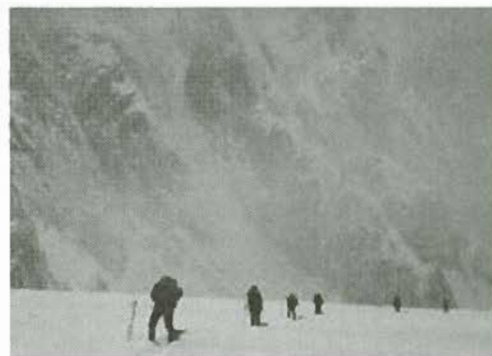
Denali National Park is in the process of updating a Backcountry Management Plan for the park to protect its nationally and internationally significant resources while continuing to provide for a range of visitor experiences. It contains new ideas for addressing today's issues as well as those expected in the next 20 years. The plan will address airplane access and air tours; climbing; mountaineering; snowmachine use in the park additions and preserve; hiking; backpacking; camping; guided commercial activities; wilderness character; non-motorized winter recreation; and subsistence use. The following is an excerpt from the plan:

Climbing and Mountaineering

The number of climbers on Mt. McKinley has doubled in the last 20 years. As climber numbers continue to rise, crowding on technical sections of popular routes, such as the fixed lines section of the West Buttress, could jeopardize visitor safety. Congestion at campsites also raises questions about the quality of the experience in this part of the Denali Wilderness.

While the park has made significant progress in managing the growth of mountaineering, there is a need for comprehensive guidance for the next 15-20 years. Including this topic in the backcountry management plan makes it possible to share information and ideas with the climbing community and the general public on mountaineering management for all of Denali National Park and Preserve rather than implementing a series of administrative actions or piecemeal planning.

The need for managing climbing centers on:



2001 Ruth Gorge Patrol

(NPS photo)

- How to document use levels; the needs and desires of mountaineers; visitor experience; and impacts to park resources for all climbing areas of the park and preserve.
- What level of administrative presence to maintain on Mt. McKinley and other climbing destinations.
- How to address visitor capacity issues on popular routes.
- Conducting additional research on human waste removal, especially from high elevations, and keeping Mt. McKinley clean.
- Providing more orientation information for international climbers (for example, translating information into Chinese, Czech, and Polish).

If you wish to acquire a copy of the plan, please call Denali National Park at (907) 683-2294 or access the park's website at: www.nps.gov/dena/home/plans/index.html. You will also be able to make comments at this site.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHBURN'S WEST BUTTRESS

There was standing room only at the Talkeetna Elementary School Gym on July 10 as the community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of the West Buttress of Mt. McKinley with Bradford and Barbara Washburn. Along with seven others, Washburn pioneered the route in 1951, reaching the summit on July 10. Today, roughly 85% of the mountaineers on Denali climb via the West Buttress route. A celebrated scientist, photographer, author, lecturer, cartographer, explorer and mountaineer, Washburn is widely recognized as the world's leading authority on Mt. McKinley. He has stood on its peak three times, including once in 1947 with his wife, Barbara, who was the first woman to reach the summit.

During the evening festivities, the Washburns were presented with a Legislative Citation sponsored by Alaska Senator Lyda Green honoring the couple's contributions to Alaska. A dessert potluck followed a slide presentation by Bradford, which highlighted his climbing and photographic adventures in Alaska, the Alps and the Himalayas.

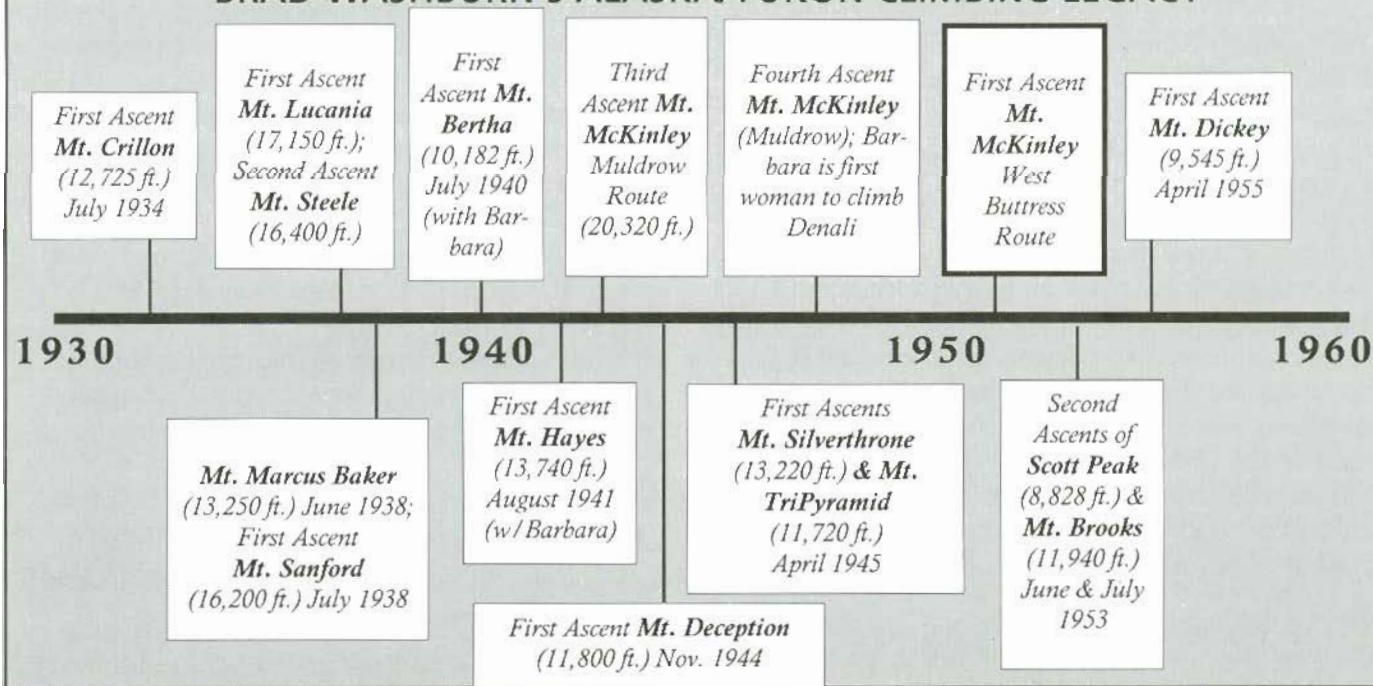
When asked why Mt. McKinley tempts the world's top mountaineers, Washburn replied, "There are few mountains of any size, anywhere on earth, that share McKinley's pristine beauty or offer the fascination of its rugged and exquisite wilderness...and everyone of us who has climbed to the crest of McKinley's final windswept

drift will remember Robert Tatum's very personal thrill of pausing there to look 'out the windows of Heaven'."



'First Families' Pioneer climbers Brad and Barbara Washburn (right) celebrate with Talkeetna residents Dave Johnston, Cari Sayre, and Galen Johnston. The family of three summited Denali this June, with 11-year-old Galen becoming the youngest climber in history to reach the top. Galen's father Dave made Denali history in 1967 as a member of the first successful winter expedition.

BRAD WASHBURN'S ALASKA/YUKON CLIMBING LEGACY



2001 DENALI PRO AWARD

After a two-person American expedition endured an exhausting summit day, one member suffered second degree frostbite on both hands. The team struggled to descend to the 14,200-foot camp, at which point one group of concerned climbers went out of their way to assist them.

Again, while descending from a summit bid, a five-person Belgian team became overwhelmingly burdened with a sick climber who was repeatedly falling. Luckily, the same team of concerned climbers attempting an evening summit intercepted the Belgian team just as a sick member tumbled head first down a slope at 18,200-feet. The summit-bound climbers assisted the Belgians back down to high camp.

Who were these heroic climbers? The National Park Service and its partner Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) would like to announce Dave Hahn, Dave Hanning, Adam Clark and Matt Helliker as the DENALI PRO 2001 Award recipients in recognition of their self-initiated rescue efforts that went above the call of duty.

Dave Hahn was leading the final group of Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated (RMI) clients of the season with assistant guides Adam Clark, Dave Hanning, and apprentice guide Matt Helliker. At the time of the aforementioned incidents, the second and third weeks of July, there were only five expeditions on the mountain. The Park Service ranger camp had been dismantled for the season, and Hahn was the most experienced person on Denali.

Upon returning to the 14,200-foot camp on July 10 after making a carry with his group to the 16,200-foot level, Hahn noticed another climbing team's disheveled tent. As he expected those climbers to have descended that day, he checked up on the inhabitants' condition. One member requested that Hahn have a look at his partner's hands, which were seriously frostbitten up to the second knuckle. Dave used his cell phone to report the climber's condition to the Talkeetna Ranger Station. After conferring with Ranger Roger Robinson, Hahn volunteered to assist this injured party down to a lower elevation in order to help prevent additional injury to the patient's hands.

On the morning of July 11, assistant guides Dave Hanning and Adam Clark roped up with the team of

two and escorted them down to the 11,200-foot level where they excavated the climbers' cache. The four then continued down to the 9,800-foot level. As it had been snowing all day, the two guides dug out a camp for the team and ensured that they were well established before they post-holed their way back up to the 14,200-foot camp where they reunited with their group at 6:00 that evening. Of note, this outstanding effort to aid a fellow climber took place on Adam's birthday.

Relatively undistracted from these events, the RMI expedition continued to high camp, and ultimately all but one client made the summit on July 15. That evening after returning from the summit and eating dinner, Hahn and apprentice guide Matt Helliker, who had remained

behind at high camp with the sick client, headed back for the summit. In addition to allowing Helliker an opportunity to summit, Hahn wanted to determine the status of a struggling Belgian team that the RMI group had passed on the descent earlier that day. Leaving high camp at 11:30 that night, Hahn and Helliker arrived at Denali Pass in less than an hour. Helliker was just in time to witness one of the Belgians stumble and fall a full rope length, until the third person on the rope team luckily arrested the fall. Hahn and Helliker assisted the team back up to a flat spot where they provided food and water to the fallen climber who was weakened with altitude illness. The guides then set up to short rope that person down to the 17,200-foot camp.

Without the assistance of this team of guides, two expeditions may have ended on a less-than-happy note. Such selfless efforts to assist fellow climbers is exactly what the "Denali Pro Award" was established to recognize. Over the course of the 2001 season, 75 Denali Pro Pins were given out to commend various good deeds done by climbers on Denali - deeds ranging from assisting the NPS with its Clean Mountain Can program (see story p.4); outstanding efforts in keeping the mountain clean; and assistance during search and rescue incidents.

Continued thanks to climbing equipment manufacturer Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) - the Denali Pro Award program would not be possible without their generous support!



Clark, Hanning, and Hahn on summit.



Helliker

COST RECOVERY ANALYSIS FOR HIGH ALTITUDE RESCUES

Last autumn, the United States Congress enacted Public Law 106-486, sponsored by Senator Frank Murkowski (R) of Alaska, directing the National Park Service to complete a mountain climber rescue cost recovery study. Much of the analysis was compiled by Mike Gauthier, who was on a detailed assignment from Mt. Rainier National Park, where he holds the position of Lead Mountaineering Ranger.

The report described the role of the National Park Service and Denali National Park and Preserve (DNP&P) in search and rescue activities. The legislation required that the report address the following three items:

- (1) recovering the costs of rescues on Mt. McKinley;
- (2) requiring climbers to provide proof of medical insurance before the issuance of a climbing permit; and
- (3) review the amount of fees charged for a climbing permit.

Gauthier gathered public comment from individuals in

the climbing community, as well as input from a variety of organizations, including the National Park Service, (Alaska Regional Office and Washington Office); American Alpine Club; 210th Alaska Air National Guard; U.S. Army at Fort Wainwright; Mountain Guide Concessionaires; Access Fund; Alaska Mountain Rescue Association; Alaska State SAR Coordinator; Providence, Valley, and Alaska Regional Hospitals; Mountain Rescue Association; and the Alaska Mountaineering Club.

The report is in its final stages of review at the Department of Interior, and the findings will be published once the report is presented to Congress.



PERSONNEL CHANGES

Long-time Mountaineering Ranger Kevin Moore will be missed by his co-workers and by the Denali climbing community as he moves on to a new position at Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Moore began his career at Denali National Park as a Student Conservation Association volunteer in 1990, then returned to Denali in 1994 as a mountaineering ranger.

Shortly before his move to Utah, Moore was presented with a prestigious Star Award from the National Park Service honoring his extensive short-haul rescue work. Throughout his tenure in Denali, Moore performed 12 short-haul rescues on Mt. McKinley and six short-hauls on the Chulitna River. These life saving missions were conducted at high altitude in sub-zero temperatures, as well as in steep terrain and swift water on the Chulitna River.

Kevin has also been instrumental in developing the search and rescue training for the park's mountaineering rangers. His knowledge of rescue skills as well as his contributions to the PowerPoint presentations have been of tremendous value to climbers and rangers alike. With his first-hand climbing and patrolling experiences throughout the Alaska Range, Kevin has been an invaluable resource for Denali National Park and Preserve.

Also this summer, former South District Ranger J.D. Swed departed Denali National Park & Preserve for a

new position as chief ranger of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park on the shores of Lake Michigan. Swed began working at Denali in 1992, when his family moved to Alaska from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in southern Utah. J.D.'s wife, Maureen Swed, also worked several years in the South District of Denali as an interpretive park ranger.

Swed's major contributions as South District Ranger include the facilitation of the new Ranger Station construction and the implementation of the climber registration and special use fee programs.

Several other key personnel changes occurred within Denali National Park over the past year. Diane Chung is now the Deputy Superintendent of the park, with Nick Herring in the role of Chief Ranger. Within the South District, Daryl Miller, who has served for the past two seasons as the Acting South District Ranger is now the official South District Ranger and Roger Robinson was promoted to Supervisory Park Ranger. Gordy Kito was promoted from a seasonal ranger to a permanent mountaineering ranger. Beginning next season, Maureen McLaughlin will serve as the South District's Administrative Assistant, a position vacated by Miriam Valentine; Miriam was promoted to the role of Division Staff Support Specialist, shifting her focus from administration to special projects and community outreach.

SOUTH DISTRICT STAFF — 2001

Talkeetna Ranger Station Staff

South District Ranger	Daryl Miller
Administrative Technicians	Miriam Valentine
	Carolyn Reitter
Lead Mountaineering Ranger	Roger Robinson
Mountaineering Rangers	John Evans
	Karen Hilton
	Gordy Kito
	Scott Metcalfe
	Kevin Moore
	Meg Perdue
	Joe Reichert
	Mik Shain
Resource Management Technician	Michelle O'Neil
Helicopter Manager	Dave Kreutzer
Helicopter Pilots	Jim Hood
	Francisco Orlaineta
Helicopter Mechanic	Ray Touzeau
Lead Visitor Use Assistant	Maureen McLaughlin
Visitor Use Assistants	Missy Smothers
	Barbara Swanson
Interpretive Rangers	Howard Carbone
	Noelle Carbone
	Laura Wright
SCA Interpretive Volunteer	Justin Sochacki

Mountaineering Volunteers 2001

Jim Osse
 Lisa Osse
 Tara Parker
 John Loomis*
 Paul Barendregt*
 Chris Eng
 George Rodway
 Bob Mayer
 Tom Moyer
 Kirk Mauthner
 Ian Sherrington
 Tucker Chenoweth
 Heather Sullivan
 Dan Cosgro
 Bob Sloezen
 Mike Wood
 Lloyd Athearn
 Sarah Vlach
 Erik Pirie
 Lori Bennett
 Daniel Parks
 Joe Riggs
 Steve Wolfe*
 Ryan Davis
 Melis Coady
 Sara Ennenga
 Weston Morrison
 Nancy Juergens
 Josie Garton
 Dave McGivern
 John Leonard

*Denotes Alaska Air
 National Guard 210th
 Pararescuemen



FRONT ROW (L to R): R. Robinson, K. Moore, M. Gauthier, H. Carbone, G. Kito,
 M. McLaughlin, M. Smothers, M. Valentine, C. Reitter, B. Swanson, F. Orlaineta, J. Reichert,
 J. Hood, M. Perdue, R. Touzeau, D. Miller. BACK ROW: J. Evans, N. Carbone, S. Metcalfe,
 M. Shain, L. Wright, K. Hilton, D. Kreutzer

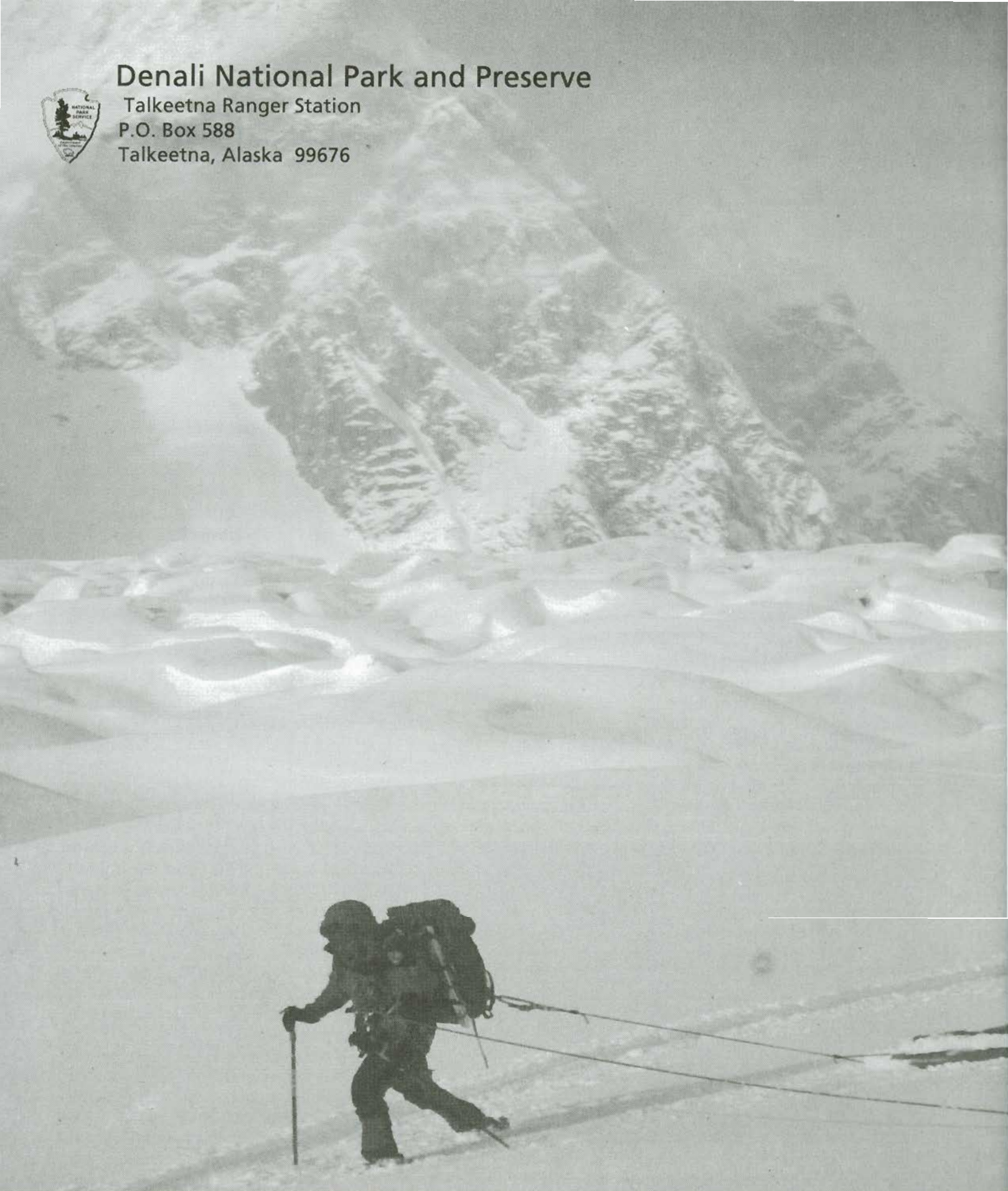


Denali National Park and Preserve

Talkeetna Ranger Station

P.O. Box 588

Talkeetna, Alaska 99676



Ranger Kevin Moore skis out the Ruth Gorge during a pre-season training expedition - (photo: Roger Robinson)

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